

Connecticut Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses

American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), Region I, Chapter 2

Connecticut Advanced Practice Registered Nurses Society (CTAPRNS)

Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists (CANA)

Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA)

Connecticut Chapter of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA-CT)

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP), Connecticut Chapter

The Northwest Nurse Practitioner Group

Public Health Committee Hearing

March 7, 2017

Senator Gerratana, Senator Somers, Representative Srinivasan, Representative Steinberg and esteemed members of the Public Health Committee.

My name is Dr. Lynn Rapsilber DNP ANP-BC APRN FAANP and I am a Nurse Practitioner. I am the Chair of the Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses.

We are supporting SB 442 and SB 445 regarding predatory drug pricing and price transparency.

Prescription medications are necessary for many patients with chronic diseases and conditions. They keep patients out of the hospital and prevent long term complications of these diseases and conditions. The ability of the pharmaceutical industry to negotiate with an insurer regarding bundled drug packages which can change as often as every 30 days, makes the consumer held to the mercy of trying to pick a plan based upon prescription medications they may consume and hope they chose wisely. Many of these medications such as Humira and Lialda for Crohn's disease can cost patients hundreds of thousands of dollars every month. This forces patients to make tough choices where to spend their money. It also can be met with untoward consequences such as a Crohn's flare which may require hospitalization for anemia, pain and bloody diarrhea and infections patients are more susceptible to obtain.

These proposed bills must go further to mandate any maintenance medication for a chronic disease will be covered by the insurance as a preventative benefit.

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